

CLAIMS

1. A method of validating a user, the method comprising:
associating a pass-sentence comprising a string of word blocks
5 (Z₁, Z₂.. Z_N) with the user (12);
associating a passnumber comprising a string of numeric
characters (Y₁, Y₂.. Y_N) with the user (13);
generating (14) from the passnumber and the pass-sentence a
table having columns in a vertical or horizontal direction and rows in the other
10 direction, in which each word block of the pass-sentence (Z_p) is located in a
column dependent on the number of preceding word blocks (Z_{p-1}) in the pass-
sentence and in a row dependent on the corresponding character (Y_p) in the
pass-sentence;
displaying the table (15);
15 receiving an input comprising a string of numeric characters (16);
comparing the input to the passnumber (17); and
determining if the input is a valid (18) input on the basis of the
comparison.
- 20 2. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the generating step
comprises recalling the table from a storage device.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the generating step
comprises generating the table at random.
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4. A method as claimed in claim 3, in which word blocks for use in
generating the table are stored in a storage device.
5. A method as claimed in claim 4, in which the number of word
30 blocks stored in the storage device is approximately equal to the number of
word block spaces in the table.

6. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, in which the table is filled with words such that each of the possible routes from a first word-filled column to a last word-filled column produces a grammatically correct sentence.

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7. A method as claimed in claim 6, in which cells in each column are filled with words or with word strings of the same type.

8. A software product comprising computer executable instructions
10 for carrying out the method of any preceding claim.

9. Computer readable media having stored thereon a software product as claimed in claim 8.

15 10. A device arranged for implementing the method of any of claims 1 to 7.

11. A system arranged for implementing the method of any of claims 1 to 7.

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